

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PASS-00 IO-11 FDRE-00 SSO-00 INR-07

INRE-00 SS-15 DHA-02 CIAE-00 EB-07 SCA-01 SCSE-00

IGA-02 PRS-01 MED-03 SP-02 PA-02 /113 W

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O 192100Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 392

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GUATEMALA 1406

DEPT PASS:

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USUN NEW YORK

US MISSION GENEVA

SEC DEF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

JCS NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO NIACT IMMEDIATE

USDA/FAS

TOPEC

AIDAC FOR AID/PHA/FDRC

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL GT

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE - SITREP #19

1. HOSPITAL CO THANKDED. PRESIDENT LAUGERUD PERSONALLY  
THANKED COL. BIRK, CO OF THE 47TH ARMY FIELD HOSPITAL, FOR  
REFLIEF EFFORTS BY BIRK AND HIS STAFF. LAUGERUD WAS GLOWING  
IN HIS PRAISE FOR THE 47TH'S WORK IN CHIMALTENANGO AND  
ASKED COL. BIRK TO CONVEY HIS GRATITUDE TO OTHER MEMBERS  
OF THE HOSPITAL STAFF.

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2. AMBASSADOR INFORMED PRESIDENT LAUGERUD THAT ON FEB 18 AID WAS SENDING MINISTRY OF FINANCE DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO AID'S 13 MILLION DOLLAR AGRICULTURAL LOAN, AND NOTED THAT IF MINISTRY OF FINANCE ACTED SWIFTLY ON THE PAPERWORK, THE LOAN COULD BE ANNOUNCED EARLY NEXT WEEK.

3. PEACE CORPS ACTIVITIES. THE PEACE CORPS' MOST VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE RELIEF EFFORT IN THE EARLY DAYS WAS ITS RESPONSE TO THE NEED FOR SPECIFIC AND ACCURATE INFORMATION FROM THE DEVASTATED RURAL AREAS. PCV'S WERE SENT OUT AS EARLY AS FEB 5 TO GATHER INFORMATION ON THE EXTENT OF DAMAGE, MEDICAL SITUATION, FOOD SUPPLIES, AND MEANS OF COMMUNICATION. SOME IMPROVISED TRANSPORTATION METHODS OF THEIR OWN; OTHERS HITCHED RIDES WITH AEROCUB PILOTS WHO WERE FLYING IN THE FIRST RELIEF SUPPLIES. SOME EVEN HIKE INTO VILLAGES LIKE BOQUERON AND CHIPIACUL (CHIMALTENANGO), AND GAVE THE VERY FIRST REPORTS.

4. REPORTS WERE COMPILED ON SOMME 200 TOWNS AND ALDEAS, AND THESE WERE PASSED ALONG TO THE MILGP, CNE CARE, AND AID. THE MILITARY USED THESE REPORTS TO SUPPLEMENT DATA INFORMATION IN DECIDING WHAT AREAS NEEDED RELIEF FLIGHTS MOST URGENTLY.

5. AFTER THE US HELICOPTERS ARRIVED THE PCV'S WERE USED TO ASSIST IN MAINTAINING THE FLOW OF INFORMATION. IN ONE INSTANCE FOUR PCV'S WERE HELICOPTERED INTO COMALAPA TO FIND PERSONS NEEDING MEDICAL EVACUATION.

IN OTHER CASES PCV'S FLEW WITH US MEDICAL CREWS TO ACT AS INTERPRETERS OR TO HELP FIND RELIABLE LOCAL INTERPRETERS. OTHERS WORKED AT THE BEHRHORST CLINIC IN CHIMALTENANGO HELPING TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.

6. IN ONE CASE A PCV COUPLE DISCOVERED THAT THE TOWN OF SAN RAIMUNDO WAS NOT RECEIVING SUPPLIES. THE COUPLE CAME TO GUATEMALA CITY AND VISITED ALL PRINCIPAL VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, COLLECTED 40,000 LBS OF SUPPLIES, AND THEN MANAGED TO GET ALL OF THESE SUPPLIES AIRLIFTED  
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IN 7 CHINOOK LOADS.

7. NOW THAT THE IMMEDIATE MEDICAL AND FOOD CRISIS HAS LARGELY PASSED, PCV'S ARE BEGINNING TO CONCENTRATE ON THE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT. CRUCIAL TO THIS EFFORT HAVE BEEN THE PCV'S ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT OF LOCAL VILLAGE-LEVEL COMMITTEES AND NEIGHBORHOOD RECONSTRUCTION WORK TEAMS. ON FEB 16 THREE TEAMS OF FOUR PCV'S EACH, WORKING

IN CONJUNCTION WITH DIEGESA (AGENCY OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE DEALING WITH AGRICULTURAL SERVICES) AND FENACOAC (NATIONAL SAVINGS AND CREDIT COOPERATIVES ASSOCIATION), ARE DOING AN INVENTORY OF RECONSTRUCTION RESOURCES AND NEEDS. A PCV ENGINEER AND A PCV CARPENTER HAVE DESIGNED A FORM FOR USE BY THESE TEAMS IN ATTEMPTING TO SHOW WHAT RESOURCES ARE LOCALLY AVAILABLE (THROUGH SALVAGE, FOR INSTANCE) AND WHAT RESOURCES NEED TO BE IMPORTED. THE REPORTS WILL BE FUNNELLED BACK TO THE GUATEMALA CITY OFFICE BY AN IMPROVISED SHUTTLE SYSTEM INVOLVING INCOMING AND OUTGOING VOLUNTEERS.

8. WATER. SIX PREVENTIVE MEDICINE SPECIALISTS FROM THE DEPARTED ARMY FIELD HOSPITAL WORKED IN GUATEMALA CITY FEB 18 CHECKING TANKS AND HELPING TO SET UP THREE MORE FOR A TOTAL OF 18 IN THE CAPITAL.

9. USIS MONITORING OF NEWS. MEMBERS OF THE UNION ON THE LARGE EL SALTO SUGAR PLANTATION AND REFINERY HAVE CONTRIBUTED \$4,000 TO GOG FOR DISASTER RELIEF, SECOND INSTANCE EMBASSY AWARE OF WHERE GUATEMALANS HAVE CONTRIBUTED CASH TO RELIEF OUTSIDE THEIR OWN AREA. MORNING JOURNAL NACION REPORTS THAT OWNERS OF BUILDINGS IN GUATEMALA CITY DAMAGED BY THE EARTHQUAKE WHO BEGIN REPAIRS TO THEIR STRUCTURES WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES WILL BE FINED \$5,000. A COMMISSION, WHICH INCLUDES AN UNNAMED AMERICAN IN ORDER "TO GUARANTEE A PURER DECISION," WILL DECIDE WHICH BUILDINGS ARE REPAIRABLE. EMBASSY ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE NAME OF AMERICAN ON COMMISSION.

10. HELICOPTERS. ON FEB 18 FIVE REMAINING HUEYS FLEW  
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TOTAL OF 48 SORTIES, CARRYING 87 PASSENGERS, 28 MEDEVACS, AND 1,650 LBS OF CARGO. TWO CHINOOKS FLEW TOTAL OF 10 SORTIES FEB 18 CARRYING 28,000 LBS OF CARGO, 19 PASSENGERS, AND NO MEDEVACS. THE OTHER TWO CHINOOKS REMAINED GROUNDED BECAUSE OF MECHANICAL DIFFICULTIES.  
MELOY

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES---EXCEPT TOPEC-----.

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PASS-00 IO-11 FDRE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

INR-07 SS-15 DHA-02 CIAE-00 EB-07 SCA-01 SCSE-00

IGA-02 PRS-01 MED-03 SP-02 PA-02 /113 W

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O 192100Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 393

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11. SPECIAL FORCES TEAMS. ON FEB 17 SPECIAL FORCES TEAMS WORKING WITH GUATEMALAN ARMY TROOPS VISITED SACATEPEQUEZ DEPARTMENT TOWNS OF SANTA MARIA DE JESUS, SAN MIGUEL DUENAS, CIUDAD VIEJA, SAN LORENZO EL CUBO, SAN JUAN DEL OBISPO, SAN PEDRO LAS HUERTAS, SAN CRISTOBAL EL BAJO, AND SAN CRISTOBAL EL ALTO. THEY ALSO BEGAN SURVEY AT GUALAN, ZACAPA. ONLY AT SAN CRISTOBAL EL ALTO, WHERE ACCESS ROAD STILL CUT, WAS THERE AN URGENT NEED FOR AIRLIFT OF FOOD AND WATER. IN OTHER TOWNS CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, TOOLS, AND PIPES TO REPAIR WATER SYSTEMS WERE FOUND TO BE BIGGEST NEEDS.

12. VOLAGS. WRANGLER BETWEEN CRS/CARITAS AND CNE OVER POSSESSION OF 80,000 LB CARGO FROM NEW ORLEANS CONTINUED FEB 18. CRS, WHICH PAID \$20,000 AIRLIFT COSTS FROM NEW ORLEANS, IS INDIGNANT THAT IT HAS LOST BOTH CREDIT FOR SHIPMENT AND RIGHT TO DISTRIBUTE. CNE OFFICIALS, IN LETTER TO DEFATT FEB 18, CLAIMED THAT THE GUATEMALAN CONSUL AT NEW ORLEANS HAD CONSIGNED THE DISPUTED CARGO TO THE CNE, AND THEREFORE CNE HAD RIGHT TO DISPOSE OF IT. CRS OFFICIALS HAVE COMPLAINED TO THEIR NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS. IN THE MEANTIME, TWO OTHER FLIGHTS WHICH CRS CLAIMS HAVE ALSO BEEN TAKEN BY THE CNE.

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13. FOOD FOR WORK. ON FEB 18 AID OFFICER WHO SPOKE

WITH THREE GUATEMALAN ARMY OFFICERS ATTACHED TO CNE WAS INFORMED THAT ARMY WANTS TO PUT INTO EFFECT A FOOD-FOR-WORK PROGRAM. ORDERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO OFFICERS COMMANDING ARMY DETACHMENTS IN JOYABAJ, TECPAN, SANARATE, CHIMALTENANGO, RABINAL, ANTIGUA, AND LLANO GRANDE TO GIVE FOOD ONLY TO THOSE ABLE-BODIED MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO CLEAR ONE CUBIC METER OF RUBBLE PER DAY.

14. PROGRAM PLACES GREAT EMPHASIS ON TOOLS. AID OFFICER WAS TOLD THAT PRIORITY ITEMS WERE AXES, PICKS, SHOVELS, WHEELBARROWS, CROWBARS, HAMMERS, WRENCHES, PIPES, NAILS AND METAL ROOFING MATERIALS. ARMY OFFICERS REQUESTED USG ASSISTANCE IN SECURING THESE SUPPLIES.

15. PATZUN: ELEVEN DAYS AFTER. EMBOFF VISITED PATZUN FEB 15 AND RETURNED WITH FOLLOWING IMPRESSIONS: MEDICAL EMERGENCY IN THAT AREA HAS PASSED. PATIENTS NOW BEING TREATED ARE THOSE WITH RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES AND OTHER AFFLICTIONS COMMON BEFORE THE EARTHQUAKE, BUT ACCENTUATED BY LIVING OUTSIDE. ALSO SOME CASES OF WOUNDS WHICH HAD EARLIER BEEN TREATED BECOMING INFECTED THROUGH LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF HYGIENE.

16. PLENTY OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES, CLOTHING, AND BLANKETS IN THE WAREHOUSE BEING SORTED BY PCV'S. LOOKED WELL ORGANIZED. HOWEVER, THERE WERE MOUNTAINS OF USED CLOTHING WHICH WERE MOSTLY USELESS, SINCE LOCAL WOMEN PREFERRED TO WAR AND WERE WEARING THEIR BIG COLORFUL HUIPILES.

17 MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM NOW IS RECONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES. LOCAL COMMITTEE IS PLANNING TO RAZE AND WILL REBUILD PATZUN BLOCK BY BLOCK, MOVING PEOPLE FROM EACH BLOCK OUT TO VACANT FIELD AND THEN BACK AS THEY BUILD.

18. CONCERN WAS BEING AND HAS SINCE BEEN EXPRESSED OVER DISINCENTIVE OF OVERGENEROUS HANDOUTS, I.E., PEOPLE NOW PREFERRING TO SIT AROUND WAITING TO SEE WHAT ELSE IS COMING, RATHER THAN GOING BACK TO WORK. EMBOFF UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS TOLD THIS WAS PROBLEM IN JOYABAJ, QUICHE, AND SAW MANY PEOPLE AROUND HELIPADS IN PATZICIA. BUT THIS MAY BE MORE A PROBLEM IN LADINO (NON-INDIAN) AREAS. A MEMBER OF COFFEE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION IN THE EAST, WHICH IS PLANNING TO REBUILD A VILLAGE IN JALAPA WITH US-TYPE PREFAB HOUSING, SAID WORKERS THERE COULDN'T WORK WHEN OFFERED THEREGULAR TWO DOLLARS A DAY, PREFERRING TO GET FOOD HANDOUTS FROM ARMY. ARMY IS REPORTEDLY ALREADY

THINKING ABOUT ENDING HANDOUTS. EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT INDIANS IN VILLAGES AROUND PATZUN HAVE HAD GOOD HARVEST AND FEEDING NOT REALLY NECESSARY. ONE SOLUTION WOULD BE TO USE FOOD AND MATERIALS AS AN INCENTIVE AND A HELP IN REBUILDING HOMES.

19. US RELIEF FLIGHTS. COMANCE ARRIVED 1225 FEB 18 285# 500 LBS OF SHEETS AND SLEEPING BAGS. CONVAIR ARRIVED 1230 FEB 18 WITH 8,500 LBS OF SHEETS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES. BELGIAN AIR FORCE C-130 (ON LOAN TO GOG) ARRIVED 1335 FEB 18 WITH 25,000 LBS OF FOOD, CLOTHING AND MEDICINE FROM THE US. C-337 ARRIVED 1445 FEB 18 WITH 800 LBS OF FOOD. C-46 FROM PUERTO RICO ARRIVED 1450 FEB 18 WITH 9,000 LBS OF TENTS, MEDICINE, AND CLOTHING. DC-8 ARRIVED 1530 FEB 18 285# 59,000 LBS OF MEDICINE, CLOTHING AND FOOD CONSIGNED TO GOG/CRS.

20. THIRD COUNTRY RELIEF FLIGHTS. MEXICAN DC-6 ARRIVED 1055 FEB 18 WITH 11,000 LBS OF FOOD AND MEAT. MEXICAN L-188 ARRIVED 1120 FEB 18 WITH 17,948 LBS OF FOOD AND MEDICINE. LUFTHANSA 707 ARRIVED 1201 FEB 18 WITH 33,000 LBS OF TENTS, SHEETS, AND BLANKETS FROM GERMANY CONSIGNED TO THE RED CROSS. ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE ABURO ARRIVED 1410 FEB 18 WITH 5,000 LBS OF BLANKETS, MEDICINE, AND CLOTHING. COSTA RICAN LACSA C-46 ARRIVED 1450 FEB 18 WITH 9,000 LBS OF MEDICINE, BLANKETS, AND TENTS. DC-6 FROM MEXICO ARRIVED 1550 FEB 18 WITH 13,321 LBS OF BABY FOOD. MELOY

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED ALL ADDEES --EXCEPT TOPEC---.  
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